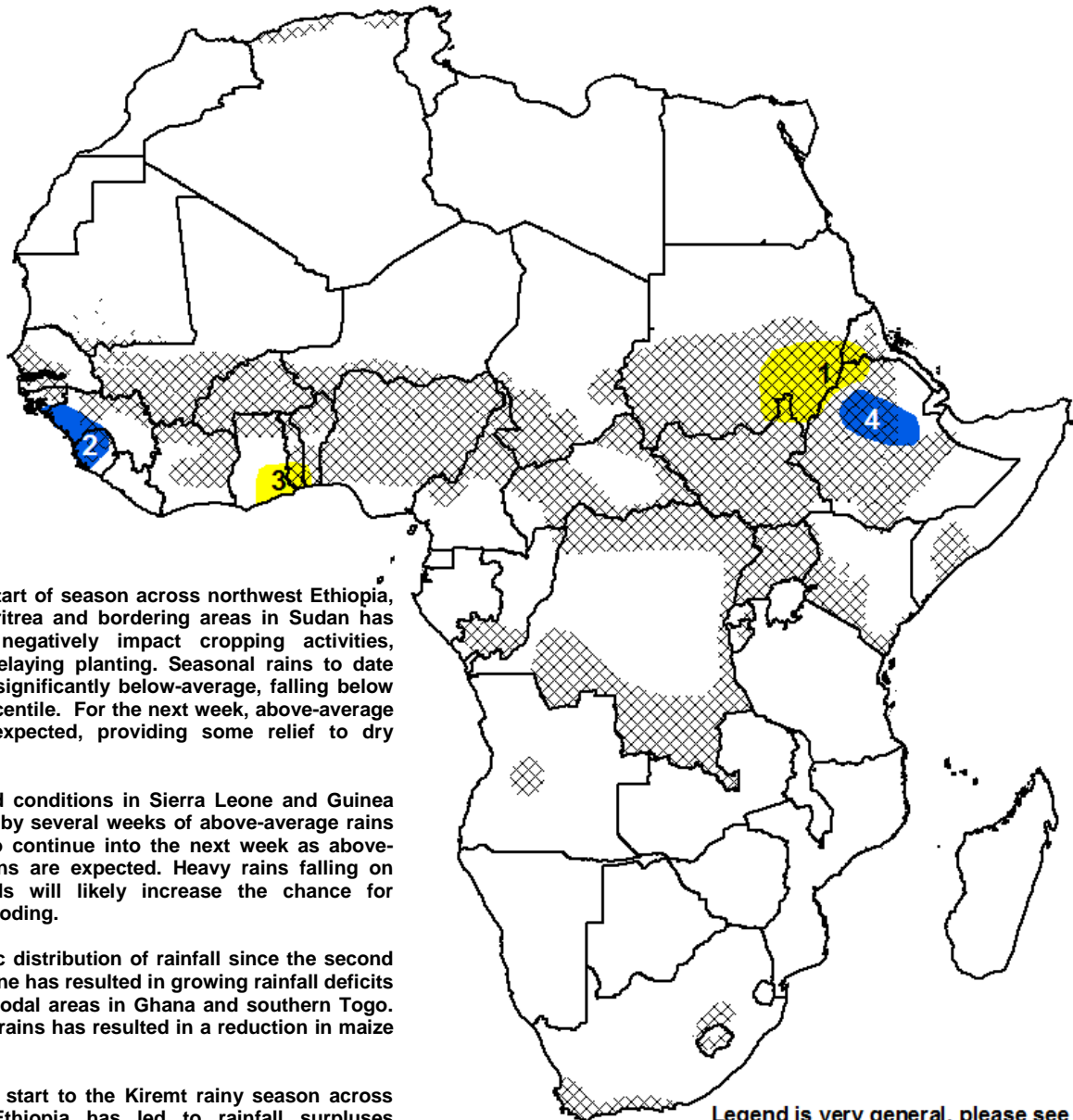


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET August 1 – August 7, 2013

- Torrential rains impacted parts of far western West Africa during the past week.
- While above-average seasonal rains caused flooding in Ethiopia, dryness persisted in Sudan and Eritrea.












1) A poor start of season across northwest Ethiopia, southern Eritrea and bordering areas in Sudan has begun to negatively impact cropping activities, including delaying planting. Seasonal rains to date have been significantly below-average, falling below the 10th percentile. For the next week, above-average rains are expected, providing some relief to dry conditions.

2) Saturated conditions in Sierra Leone and Guinea brought on by several weeks of above-average rains are likely to continue into the next week as above-average rains are expected. Heavy rains falling on wet grounds will likely increase the chance for localized flooding.

3) An erratic distribution of rainfall since the second dekad of June has resulted in growing rainfall deficits across bi-modal areas in Ghana and southern Togo. The lack of rains has resulted in a reduction in maize yields.

4) A robust start to the Kiremt rainy season across much of Ethiopia has led to rainfall surpluses exceeding 150mm and reports of localized flooding in flood prone areas in the Oromia, Amhara, SNNPR and Somali regions. With additional heavy rains forecast for the next week, the risks for flooding are elevated.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

August Cropped Areas	
	Flooding
	Abnormal Dryness
	Drought
	Severe Drought
	Tropical Cyclone
	Potential Locust Outbreak
	Heavy Snow
	Abnormal Cold
	Abnormal Heat

Rainfall deficits grow in Nigeria, and Chad.

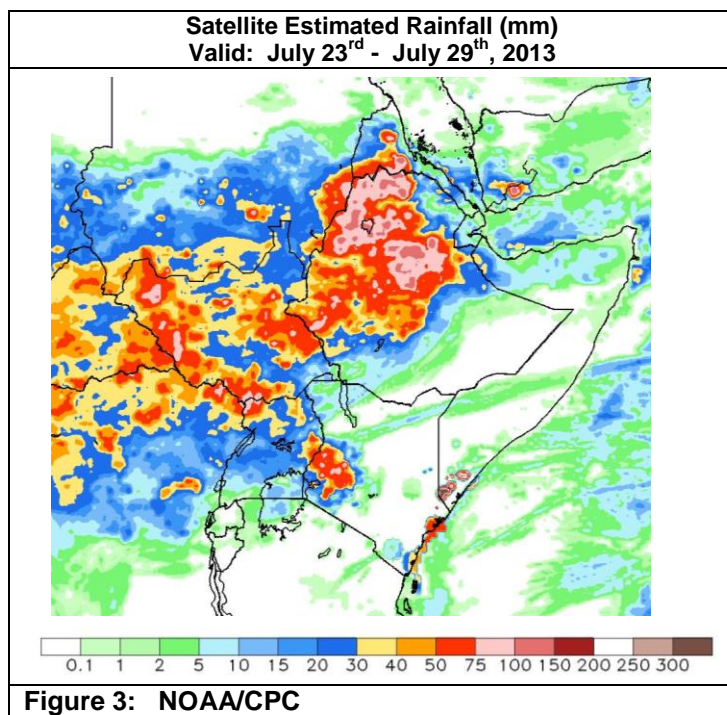
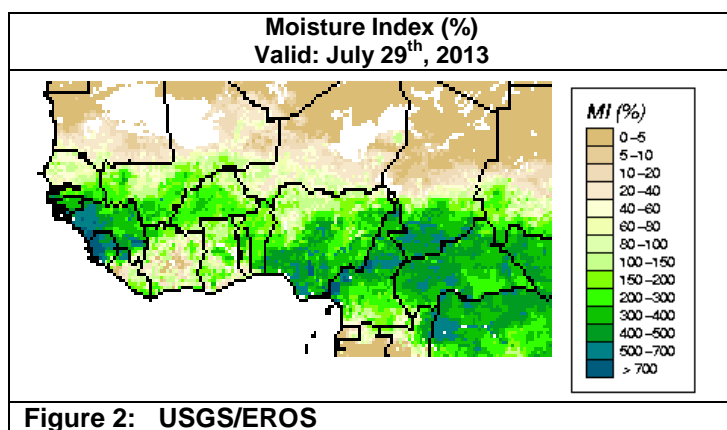
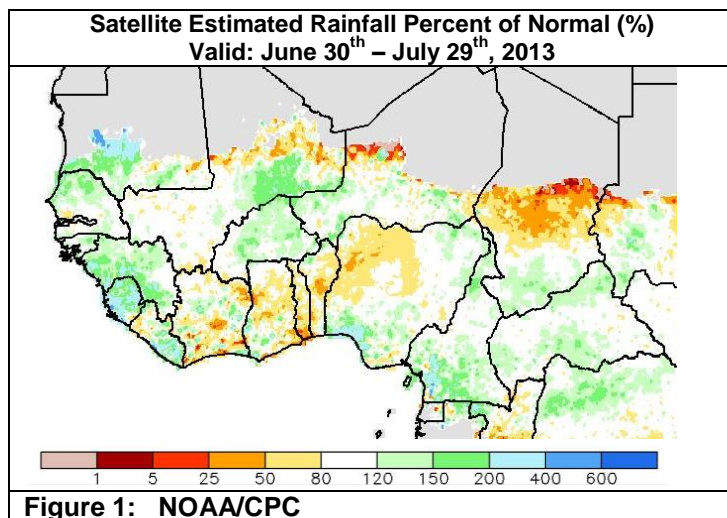
During the past week, below-average rains fell across much of West Africa. The heaviest rains (>75mm) fell across Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone, while heavy rains (>50mm) were recorded in western Mali, Burkina Faso and southern Nigeria. Elsewhere, light to moderate rain (5-30mm) was observed. The abundant rains in far western West Africa have increased thirty-day rainfall surpluses to greater than 200% of normal. This has caused flooding concerns. In contrast, below-average weekly rains have increased rainfall deficits across northwestern Nigeria, central Chad and in bi-modal areas along the Gulf of Guinea. Thirty-day rainfall in southern Ghana, southern Togo and central Chad has been below 50% of normal (**Figure 1**). The below-average rain in coastal Togo has reduced maize yields for the first season harvest. Rains have also been erratic across northern and central Senegal.

The recent drier-than-average conditions across parts of West Africa have resulted in lower moisture index values. The low moisture index values that occur along the Gulf of Guinea coastline in Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo are reflective of below-average rains that have been influenced by colder-than-average sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Guinea. Elsewhere, low moisture index values are present across northern/central Senegal and northwestern Nigeria where rains have been light and below-average. In addition, low moisture index values over central Chad (**Figure 2**) are indicative of poor rains and a slow poleward movement of the Intertropical Front across the region.

For the next week, due to anomalous westerly winds, heavy and above-average rains are forecast for already saturated areas in Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, increasing flooding concerns, as well as Senegal, southern Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, northwestern Nigeria and western Niger. In contrast, below-average rains are expected along the Gulf of Guinea coast and in southern Chad.

Above-average rains continue in Ethiopia.

During the past seven days, heavy rains (>50mm) were observed across Ethiopia, South Sudan, southern Eritrea and localized areas in eastern Sudan (**Figure 3**). This past week marked the first in over a month where weekly rains were near average across parts of eastern Sudan and Eritrea. The poor seasonal rains have resulted in substantial seasonal rainfall deficits (100-300mm) in Sudan, Eritrea and the northern Tigray province of Ethiopia. Rainfall deficits have begun to spread farther west into central Sudan. In contrast, three to five consecutive weeks of above-average rain in central Ethiopia have led to thirty-day rainfall surpluses greater than 150mm and reports of localized flooding in flood prone areas in the Oromia, Amhara, SNNPR and Somali regions of Ethiopia. For the next week, rains are forecast to be enhanced in already saturated areas in Ethiopia, likely causing localized flooding. Above-average rains are also expected in eastern Sudan and Eritrea, providing some relief to the extended period of dryness observed in both locations.



Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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